

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9958

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 295

FOR ARA/MGT AND VO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PER, AFSP, CGEN, CVIS, JM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR NEW AMERICAN SECRETARY POSITION

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO AUTHORIZE AN AMERICAN SECRETARY POSITION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL AT THIS POST, AND TO FILL THE POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE IS IN A SEPARATE BUILDING LOCATED ABOUT THREE MILES ACROSS TOWN FROM THE CHANCERY, AND IS COMPRISED OF EIGHT AMERICAN OFFICERS AND 25 JAMAICAN EMPLOYEES, THE CONSUL GENERAL DOES NOT HAVE AN AMERICAN SECRETARY.

3. ALL CLASSIFIED MATERIAL PREPARED BY THE CONSUL GENERAL OR HIS OFFICERS MUST BE HAND-CARRIED IN DRAFT TO THE CHANCERY FOR TYPING, DISTRIBUTION, AND RETURN FOR SIGNATURE. THIS UNDULY DELAYS AND COMPLICATES ROUTINE CLASSIFIED MATTERS, SERIOUSLY INHIBITS THE PRODUCTION OF SENSITIVE POLITICAL REPORTING BY THE CONSULAR SECTION, AND WASTES TIME OF CONCERNED OFFICERS.

(JAMAICANS, IN THEIR EATVGUATTEMPZY TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES VISAS, ARE EXCELLENT INTELLIGENCE SOURCES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS FACTOR WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN IMPORTANCE AS JAMAICA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

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DETERIORATES FURTHER.)

4. THE DANGER OF LOSS OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL DURING THE
EXTRA TRIP NOW REQUIRED ACROSS THIS UNSAFE TOWN WOULD
BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

5. CONTROL AND FILING OF ALL CLASSIFIED AND SENSITIVE
MATERIAL IN THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE IS PRESENTLY DONE
BY AN OFFICER. (IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS IMPORTANT TO
NOTE THE PRESENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE ASSURES
A VERY HIGH VOLUME OF SENSITIVE VISA CASES WHICH CANNOT BE
HANDLED BY LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THE RESULTING PAPER
WORK AND FILES, USUALLY INVOLVING PROMINENT POLITICAL
LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, MUST BE
HANDLED ONLY BY AMERICANS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE WHOLLY
LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THE APPLICANTS.) THE ASSIGNMENT OF
AN AMERICAN SECRETARY TO THE OFFICE WILL PERMIT ALL
OFFICERS TIME TO BE SPENT ON MUCH NEEDED OFFICER-TYPE
DUTIES IN THIS OVER-WORKED AND UNDERSTAFFED CONSULAR
SECTION GERARD

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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